eviction drive on innocent tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh living in border areas from time to time leading to explosive situations;

(b) whether Government would recognize the Assam-Arunachal boundary dispute a national issue; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to resolve this vexed problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government had taken up the matter regarding eviction drive with the Government of Assam, who had reported that eviction drive carried out on 5.2.2005, was not in the disputed area of Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.

(b) and (c) The boundary dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is pending before the Supreme Court.

Spread of naxalism

1809. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that naxalism has spread from one village in West Bengal to 7000 villages and now control 19 per cent of India's forest areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have ever examined the main reasons for the spread of this movement which had adversely affected more than 300 million people by naxal-related violence and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) 76 districts in 9 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are affected by naxalite violence/activity in varying degrees. Besides, naxalites are also trying to spread their influence in some parts of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal.

(b) Socio-economic disparities, some local issues such as threat of eviction from forest areas, lack of development, backwardness and inadequate/ineffective mechanisms for redressal of public grievances are some of the reasons, which are exploited by the naxalites in spreading their activities.

(c) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxalite groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of para military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Letters written by MPs TO NDMC officers

1810. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letters written by the MPs and the Ministers to the Chairperson and Secretary of N.D.M.C. are neither responded with a reply nor even acknowledged;

(b) what are the rules in this regard and whether Government would direct these officers to at least show courtesy and reply to their letters; and

(c) the number of letters received by these officers from the MPs and Ministers during the period from 1st June, 2004 to 31st May, 2005 and whether they were adequately replied to and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that all letters received from the Hon'ble Membes of Parliament and the Hon'ble Ministers are properly acknowledged and necessary action is taken on the matters referred therein and suitable replies are given.